

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6567

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB,SP

SUBJECT: DISSIDENT STV LABOR GROUP PLANS CONGRESS JULY 31-AUGUST 1

1. STV (SOLIDARITY OF BASQUE WORKERS) DISSIDENT YOUNG TURK FACTION PLANS TO HOLD AN EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS IN BILBAO THE WEEKEND OF JULY 31-AUGUST 1. THIS DISSIDENT STV GROUP, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF JUAN BEITIA AND FRANCISCO JAVIER FRESNEDO, HAS BROKEN AWAY FROM THE BAYONNE-BASED MAIN STV ORGANIZATION HEADED BY SECRETARY GENERAL JOSE LEUNDA. AS ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL, STV IS A RELATIVELY DORMANT, CHRISTIAN-ORIENTED NATIONALISTIC BASQUE TRADE UNION, AFFILIATED TO THE BASQUE NATIONALIST PNV POLITICAL PARTY. STV IS AFFILIATED INTERNATIONALLY TO BOTH ICFTU AND WCL, AND IS THE LATTER'S PRINCIPAL SPANISH AFFILIATE.

2. BEITIA RECENTLY CALLED ON LABATT TO EXPLAIN IN STRAIGHTFORWARD TERMS HIS GROUP'S POSITION. IN ESSENCE, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO OUST THE EXILE LEADERSHIP IN BAYONNE, FRANCE WHICH THEY BELIEVE IS OUT OF TOUCH WITH BASQUE REALITIES. THEY SEE THE SOCIALIST PSOE (WHICH THEY REGARD AS

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CENTRALIST AND ANTI-BASQUE) MANIPULATING THEY PNV AND,

BY EXTENSION, LEUNDA'S EXILE STV GROUP.

3. BEITIA TOLD US THAT HIS GROUP HOPES TO ATTRACT A GOODLY NUMBER OF DELEGATES AND CLAIMS HAS THE GREEN LIGHT FROM THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES TO HOLD THE CONGRESS. THEY HAVE EXTENDED INVITATIONS TO "SOME" FOREIGN TRADE UNION LEADERS INCLUDING U.S. (TOP AFL-CIO OFFICERS). AMCON BILBAO HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT LEUNDA, THROUGH THE LOCAL BILBAO PRESS, HAS DISASSOCIATED HIS GROUP FROM THE PLANNED CONGRESS. LEUNDA'S GROUP PLANS TO HOLD ITS OWN "OFFICIAL" STV CONGRESS IN OCTOBER.

4. THE INTERNAL INTRIGUES OF A MINOR LABOR GROUP SUCH AS THE STV WOULD NOT MERIT MUCH ATTENTION WERE IT NOT FOR THE FACT THAT FOREIGN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS (INCLUDING THE AFL-CIO) MAY BE MISLED INTO BELIEVING THIS WEEKEND'S CONGRESS IS ACTUALLY THE OFFICIAL STV CONGRESS. BEITIA'S INVITATIONS TO THE CONGRESS CARRY THE OFFICIAL STV LETTERHEAD, SHOWING ITS AFFILIATION WITH ICFTU, WCL, AND IMF. THE EMBASSY IS AWARE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT U.S. LABOR CONTACTS (INCLUDING THE AFL-CIO'S IRVING BROWN AND MIKE BOGGS, AND THE UAW'S HERMAN REBHAN, IMF SECRETARY GENERAL IN GENEVA) HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE LEUNDA EXILE GROUP IN BAYONNE.

5. THE DEPARTMENT, PARIS, AND GENEVA MAY WISH TO CONTACT THE AFL-CIO, IRVING BROWN, AND HERMAN REBHAN RESPECTIVELY, TO ASSURE THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF THE FACTS IN CASE THEY PLAN TO SEND CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES. WHETHER THEY DO SHOULD SO IS A JUDGEMENT CALL. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE BEITIA GROUP COULD EVENTUALLY TURN OUT TO BE THE MAIN-STREAM STV GROUP AFTER THE SMOKE CLEARS.
STABLER

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